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*Stated Meeting, March 7, 1890.*

Present, 10 members.

Mr. RICHARD VAUX in the Chair.

Prof. Henry Willis, a newly elected member, was presented to the Chair and took his seat.

Correspondence was submitted as follows:

Letters accepting membership from Prof. Robert W. Rogers and from Prof. Henry Willis, Philadelphia.

Letters of envoy were received from the Museo Nacional de Buenos Aires; Royal Statistical Society, London.

Letters of acknowledgment were received from Sir J. W. Dawson, Montreal (130); University of Pennsylvania (129, 130), Mrs. Helen Abbott Michael (130), Prof. Henry D. Gregory (130), Philadelphia; Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore (130).

A letter from the Department of State in reference to certain MSS. in the possession of the Society was ordered to be filed.

A letter was read from E. Frank Carson, requesting the loan of the Society's Hall for an approaching reunion of the Rittenhouse family, to be held April 8, 1890, being the 168th anniversary of his birth; and also requesting that the Society should be represented on the occasion, which, on motion, was referred to the President with power to act.

Accessions to the Library were reported from the Académie des Sciences, Cracow, Austria; Section für Naturkunde, Ö C., Vienna; Verein für Lübeckische Geschichte und Alterthumskunde, Lübeck, Germany; Société Hollandaise des Sciences, Harlem, Holland; Philological Society, Cambridge, England; Rousdon Observatory, Devon, England; Geological, Royal Statistical Societies, London; Geological and Natural History Survey of Canada, Montreal; Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.; Mr. Charles J. Hoadley, Hartford, Conn.; Prof. Robert W. Rogers, Philadelphia; Wyoming Historical Society, Wilkes-Barré; Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore;

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Bureau of Ethnology, Interstate Commerce Commission, Washington, D.C.; Kansas Academy of Science, Topeka; University of California, Berkeley; Observatorio Meteorologico-Central, Mexico; Museo Nacional de Buenos Aires, S. A.

Mr. Phillips exhibited and presented to the Cabinet of the Society a bottle of "Earthquake sand from the Geysers at Summerville, S. C., August 31, 1886."

Mr. Vaux read an obituary notice of the late Franklin B. Gowen.

An obituary notice of the late Henry S. Frieze, LL.D., by Hon. James B. Angell, was presented by the Secretaries.

The death of Martin B. Anderson (formerly of Rochester, N. Y.) was reported as having taken place at Lake Helena, Florida, on February 26, 1890 (born February 12, 1815).

Prof. Barker exhibited to the Society four stellar photographs taken by Prof. Pickering, Director of the Harvard College Observatory, as a part of the Henry Draper Memorial. The photographs were of the spectrum of the star  $\beta$  Aurigæ, and showed the K line single in the first set and double in the second, although taken only about seventeen hours apart. This result appears to show that this star is binary, its components revolving about each other in somewhat less than four days. From the displacement of the components of the K line, the change in wave length and the velocity of motion may be calculated. Prof. Pickering finds this velocity to be 150 miles per second. The distance apart of the components he estimates to be eight million miles, and their joint mass about 2.3 times that of the sun. Since the spectrum method of detecting binary stars is independent of distance, it must always have an advantage in detecting such stars over the telescopic method.

Dr. Brinton offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the Committee on the Commemoration of the Death of Franklin be instructed to select all speakers on that occasion from members of the Society, and if engagements of others have already been made,

that they be informed that owing to alterations in the plan of the commemoration, the thanks of the Society are tendered them, but their attendance will not be expected.

Dr. Horn offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That a Committee of three be appointed by the President to examine an oil portrait of Prof. S. F. Baird by Mr. H. Ulke, report on its desirability, and, if favorably, to solicit subscriptions for its purchase at a price not exceeding \$200, for the gallery of this Society.

The President subsequently appointed as such Committee, Dr. George H. Horn and Messrs. J. Sergeant Price and William A. Ingham.

And the Society was adjourned by the presiding member.

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*Stated Meeting, March 21, 1890.*

Present, 30 members.

President, Mr. FRALEY, in the Chair.

Prof. Robert W. Rogers and Mr. Talcott Williams, lately elected members, were presented to the Chair and took their seats.

Correspondence was submitted as follows:

Letters from Hon. James T. Mitchell and Mr. Samuel Timmins accepting membership.

A circular from the University of Toronto, requesting donations to its library, to replace the one destroyed by fire on the 14th of February last; on motion, the Librarian was directed to forward to it such of the Proceedings of the Society as could be sent.

A letter from the Naturforschende Gesellschaft in Emden, Hannover, thanking the Society for its letter of congratulation on the late celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of its foundation.